

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A radiological imaging apparatus having a means for supporting an object tray and an object thereon, the apparatus comprising:
 - a. ~~means for supporting an object tray;~~
 - b. ~~means for compression of the object against the tray;~~
 - c. ~~the means for compression carried by a mobile carriage along the means for support, the means for compression having a direction of mobility relative to the mobile carriage that is other than a direction of compression of the object;~~
 - d. ~~the means for compression comprising means for the identification of the means for compression cooperating with means for reading of the mobile carriage irregardless of a lateral displacement of the means for compression relative to the means for reading;~~
 - e. ~~the means for reading cooperating with a “~~smart device~~” smart device of the apparatus for providing an image of the object.~~
2. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for identification of the means for compression comprise a relay actuator.
3. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for reading of the mobile carriage comprise a relay that can be actuated by the means for compression.

4. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the means for reading of the mobile carriage comprise a relay that can be actuated by the means for compression.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the relay is ~~selected from the group essentially consisting of mechanical, magnetic, and optical, or~~ any combination comprising at least one of the foregoing relays.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the relay is ~~selected from the group essentially consisting of mechanical, magnetic, and optical, or~~ any combination comprising at least one of the foregoing relays.

7. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for reading comprises, in series, a circuit for adapting voltage to levels compatible with a logic circuit and a parallel-to serial converter circuit.

8. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the means for reading comprises, in series, a circuit for adapting voltage to levels compatible with a logic circuit and a parallel-to serial converter circuit.

9. (original) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the means for reading comprises, in series, a circuit for adapting voltage to levels compatible with a logic circuit and a parallel-to serial converter circuit.

10. (original) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the means for reading comprises, in series, a circuit for adapting voltage to levels compatible with a logic circuit and a parallel-to serial converter circuit.

11. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the means for reading comprises, in series, a circuit for adapting voltage to levels compatible with a logic circuit and a parallel-to serial converter circuit.

12. (original) The machine according to claim 7 wherein each output of a matching circuit is connected to an input of the parallel-to-serial converter circuit.

13. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein an input of a matching circuit is connected to the output of a relay.

14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein an input of a matching circuit is connected to the output of a relay.

15. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

16. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

17. (original) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

18. (original) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

19. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

20. (original) The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

21. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

22. (original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

23. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the means for identification of the compression pad extends along a direction of mobility of the pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

24. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

25. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

26. (original) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

27. (original) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

28. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

29. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

30. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

31. (original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

32. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

33. (original) The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the mobile carriage comprises means for reading the position of the compression pad, the compression pad comprising means to indicate its positioning.

34. (original) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the means for reading the position comprise a series of at least two position-detector relays aligned in a direction of shift of the compression pad with respect to the mobile carriage.

35. (original) The apparatus according to claim 34 wherein the compression pad comprises relay actuators working together with the position-detector relays during and after the placing of the compression pad on the mobile carriage.

36. (original) The apparatus according to claim 24 wherein the means for indicating the positioning of the compression pad extend along a direction of mobility with respect to the mobile carriage.

37. (original) The apparatus according to claim 34 wherein the means for indicating the positioning of the compression pad extend along a direction of mobility with respect to the mobile carriage.

38. (original) The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the means for indicating the positioning of the compression pad extend along a direction of mobility with respect to the mobile carriage.

39. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the “~~smart device~~” smart device comprises a plurality of tracks affixed to the pad, each track providing means for identifying the position of the pad.

40. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the ~~“smart device”~~ smart device comprises a plurality of relays.

41. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the ~~“smart device”~~ smart device comprises means for digitally identifying the position of the pad.

42. (new) The apparatus according to claim 40 wherein the smart device further comprises a processor responsive to coded instructions for determining the state of the relays.

43. (new) A radiological imaging apparatus having a column for supporting an object tray and an object thereon, the apparatus comprising:

a compression pad for compressing the object against the tray;

a mobile carriage for carrying the compression pad in a first direction along the column, the compression pad movable laterally in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction;

a plurality of identification tracks disposed at the compression pad and extending along the second direction, the identification tracks for identifying the compression pad; and

a track reader disposed at the mobile carriage and cooperating with the identification tracks regardless of a lateral displacement of the compression pad in the second direction relative to the track reader.

44. (new) The apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising:
a processor controlled device cooperative with the track reader for providing information for imaging of the object.

45. (new) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein:

the processor controlled device is configured to automatically identify the type of compression pad and the position of the compression pad relative to a lateral displacement of the compression pad in the second direction.